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FACT SHEET

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Publications

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) produces numerous “standing” publications and special reports on varied aspects of court administration. Most are available free of charge, but some require a fee, as indicated in the following sampling. Many of these publications can be requested by calling the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980 or by sending an e-mail to pubinfo@jud.ca.gov. Some of these and many other documents can also be downloaded directly from the California Courts Web site at either www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference or www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/.

Electronic Publications

Online Self-Help Center

The California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) provides a comprehensive selection of legal information, tools, and resources, including fillable forms, for self-represented litigants. The Web site is designed to help those without attorneys become better informed, navigate the court system, and develop realistic expectations of the legal system. The site is also available in Spanish at www.sucorte.ca.gov.

Plain-language Judicial Council forms

Easy-to-read plain-language forms are now used for domestic violence and adoption proceedings. These forms have been translated into Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Annual Reports

Judicial Council Annual Report

A review of Judicial Council highlights from the calendar year and a summary of key trends and challenges in California’s court system.

Court Statistics Report

A presentation of detailed statistical data on and trends in the volume of business in all the California courts during the preceding 10 years.

Magazines

California Courts Review

Quarterly magazine for and about the state judicial branch, featuring in-depth articles on critical issues facing the courts, written by experts inside and outside the branch.

General Publications

Judicial Council Information Kit

An overview of the Judicial Council of California and the Administrative Office of the Courts; fact sheets about major projects and programs.

Leading Justice Into the Future: Judicial Council of California Strategic Plan (2000)

A summary of broad policy directions and specific goals for the Judicial Council.

California Judicial System Fact Sheets

The AOC publishes fact sheets on many aspects of the state judicial system and updates them twice a year. The fact sheets include:

- Access and Fairness Advisory Committee
- Assigned Judges Program
- California Judicial Branch
- Cameras in Court
- Change of Venue in California
- Center for Families, Children & the Courts
- Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program
- Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee
- Court Interpreters
- How a Proposal Becomes a Rule
- Jury System Improvement Project
- Programs for Self-Represented Litigants
- Training and Education
- Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees
- Trial Court Unification
- Violence Against Women Education Project

California Code of Judicial Ethics

Formal canons of judicial conduct, as amended by the California Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of California (2003)

A book describing the California Supreme Court's structure and function, history, operations, and internal operating practices and procedures, with historic photographs and a list of past and present justices.

Information on Crime Victims' Compensation (1997)

Summarizes the compensation available to some victims of crime.

Special Reports

Violence Against Women Education Project: Annual Report (2003, 2005)

A review of the grant activities relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, conducted by the Violence Against Women Educational Project (VAWEP).

California Juvenile Dependency Court Improvement Program Reassessment (2005)

A comprehensive study of juvenile dependency court in California, including both progress on recommendations made in the 1997 assessment and new recommendations for improvement.

Equal Access Fund: A Report to the California Legislature (2005)

Description and evaluation of the fund supporting nonprofit legal aid providers in California.

Model Self-Help Pilot Program: A Report to the Legislature (2005)

Evaluation of five models for providing assistance to self-represented litigants in the California courts.

The Caseload Study for Trial-Level Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel (Interim Report) (2003)

Preliminary findings and recommendations from a statewide study of caseloads of trial-level dependency counsel for parents and children.

Probation Services Task Force Final Report (2003)

A report of findings and recommendations to enhance probation service delivery, establish a more rational governance system, and elevate the status of probation in California.

California's Access to Visitation Grant Program for Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Nonresidential Parents, Fiscal Years 2001–2002 and 2002–2003 (2003)

A report to the California Legislature on the court and county programs that received grant funding under California's Access to Visitation Grant Program.

Family Law Information Centers: An Evaluation of Three Pilot Programs (2003)

A report to the California Legislature examining three pilot family law information centers that were established to assist the growing number of litigants who cannot afford legal counsel in family law proceedings.

Dialogue: Courts Reaching Out to Their Communities—A Handbook for Creating and Enhancing Court and Community Collaboration (1999)

A how-to resource for courts' participation in collaborations with their communities.

Court-Appointed Counsel: Report on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Court-Appointed Counsel Program (1997)

A report from the Judicial Council to the Legislature, originated by the Appellate Indigent Defense Oversight Committee, on the court-appointed counsel program in the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Photographing, Recording, and Broadcasting in the Courtroom: Guidelines for Judicial Officers (1997)

A guide to understanding and implementing the latest measures governing media presence in the courtroom.

The Impact of the Three-Strikes Law on Superior and Municipal Courts, Survey 2: July–December 1995 (1996)

The Administrative Office of the Courts' second court survey to measure the impact of the three-strikes law on trial court workload.

Justice in the Balance—2020 (1994)

A report of the Commission on the Future of the California Courts.

Access and Fairness

Child Care Resource Guide and Roster for Court Employees (May 2002)

A guide produced by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee to help court employees meet their child-care needs.

Disability Fairness: Guidelines for Judicial Officers (July 2001)

Developed for judicial officers by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Sexual Orientation Fairness in the California Courts (January 2001)

The final report of the Sexual Orientation Fairness Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Disability Etiquette: Interacting With Persons With Disabilities (July 2000)

A guide produced by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Guidelines for Lawyers: Eliminating Bias in the Legal Profession (May 2000)

Produced by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee, with the assistance of the Orange County Bar Association's Gender Equity Committee, to provide lawyers with guidelines on the fair treatment of and appropriate courtroom behavior toward judges, opposing counsel, court employees, clients, witnesses, litigants, jurors, and others involved in court processes.

Persons With Disabilities: Questions and Answers on Rule of Court 989.3 (1998)

Information developed for the public by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Final Report of the California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts (1997)

The culmination of five years of research on the treatment of racial and ethnic minorities in the state courts and the public's perceptions of fairness or lack of fairness in the judicial system.

Summary of Survey and Public Hearing Reports of the Access for Persons With Disabilities Subcommittee of the California Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee (1997)

A report that summarizes research and recommendations concerning the California courts' treatment of and accessibility for disabled persons.

Public Hearing Report: Access for Persons With Disabilities (1997)

The final report of the Access for Persons With Disabilities Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Access to the California State Courts: A Survey of Court Users, Attorneys, and Court Personnel (January 1997)

A report of the results of an investigation into the accessibility of the judicial system to persons with disabilities and chronic medical conditions, conducted by the Access for Persons With Disabilities Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Questions and Answers on Rule of Court 989.3, Requests for Accommodations by Persons With Disabilities (1997)

Information developed for judicial officers by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Gender and Justice: Implementing Gender Fairness in the Courts (1996)

A report of the Gender Fairness Subcommittee of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Guidelines for Judicial Officers: Avoiding the Appearance of Bias (August 1996)

A guide produced by the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee with the assistance of the Orange County Bar Association's Gender Equity Committee.

Achieving Equal Justice for Women and Men in the California Courts (1996)

A landmark report on gender bias in the courts.

Professional Ethics and the Role of the Court Interpreter (1994)

(public agencies, free; others, \$15)

Information on standards of professional conduct for court interpreters.

Fairness in the California State Courts: A Survey of the Public, Attorneys, and Court Personnel (December 1993)

The final report of the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Evaluation of the Early Mediation Pilot Programs (2004)

Evaluation report on five court-annexed civil mediation pilot programs' impact on trial rates, disposition time, litigant satisfaction with the process, litigant costs, and court workload.

Use and Cost of References in General Civil Cases (2004)

Report to the Legislature focusing on (1) the use of references, particularly discovery references; (2) the time spent by referees in fulfilling their appointments; and (3) the fees charged to litigants for referees' services.

Report of the Task Force on the Quality of Justice, Subcommittee on ADR and the Judicial System (1999)

A report assessing and making recommendations regarding the effects of ADR on courts, litigants, and the public, as well as on ethical issues and court referral of disputes.

Technology

Strategic Plan for Court Technology: Judicial Council of California Court Technology Advisory Committee (1998)

The strategic plan for directing technological investment in the California courts.

Report on the Application of Video Technology in the California Courts (1997)

An investigation and recommendations to the Judicial Council on the use of video technology in the courts by the Court Technology Advisory Committee.

Court Funding

Ensuring Equal Access to Justice: Trial Court Funding Resource Manual (2d ed. 1998)

A comprehensive reference binder for courts on the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (Assem. Bill 233) and its financial and structural implications.

Family and Juvenile Courts

California Juvenile Dependency Court Improvement Program Reassessment (2005)

A comprehensive report describing the juvenile dependency court system in California, which handles cases involving child abuse and neglect, and making recommendations for improvements.

Statewide Uniform Statistical Reporting System 2003 Client Baseline Study: Summary Findings (2004)

Comprehensive statistics from a study of all court-based child custody mediation sessions in California.

Client Feedback in California Court Based Child Custody Mediation (2004)

In-depth analysis of litigant satisfaction with numerous aspects of California's mandatory court-based child custody mediation process.

California Community Justice Project: Building Restorative Justice Principles in the Community (2004)

Describes the California Community Justice Project, its mission, and the resources and technical assistance that are provided. Demonstrates theories and examples of community justice and restorative justice in practice.

Community Justice: What's in It for Me? (2004)

Describes the benefits of community justice and its collaborative processes to the criminal justice system.

Restorative Conferencing: California Community Justice Project (2004)

A description of restorative conferencing that discusses practices based on the principles of community and restorative justice.

CASA Infant and Toddler Demonstration Project (2003)

An evaluation of the effects of the appointment of CASA volunteers on dependency cases of children aged three and under.

California CASA Programs 2004 Annual Report

Updated information about the 39 CASA programs in 40 of California's 58 counties.

Court-Based Juvenile Dependency Mediation in California (2003)

A report of research into the history of juvenile dependency mediation, the issues it seeks to resolve, and the programs currently in effect in California.

Difficult Cases in Court-Based Child Custody Mediation in California (2003)

A research update examining issues that affect the difficulty of and the resources necessary for resolving child custody and visitation disputes through court-based mediation.

Domestic Violence Restraining Order Informational Materials (2003)

Informational videotapes and pamphlets designed to assist people in seeking and responding to Domestic Violence Prevention Act orders. The pamphlets are available in English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

California's Access to Visitation Grant Program for Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Nonresidential Parents: The First Five Years (2002)

A comprehensive report to the state Legislature on California's Access to Visitation Grant Program and the extent to which local programs have achieved their goals of promoting healthy parent-child relationships and ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of children.

Caregivers and the Courts: Improving Court Decisions Affecting Children in Foster Care (2002)

A groundbreaking research study examining the participation of foster parents and relative caregivers in the juvenile dependency court process under the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act.

Domestic Violence in Court-Based Child Custody Mediation Cases in California (2002)

A research report measuring the prevalence of interpersonal violence among parents who participated in court-based child custody mediation in California.

Going to Court Without a Lawyer: A Guide for Uncontested Dissolution, Legal Separation, and Annulment (2002; en Español, 2002)

A basic overview of the process for a simple divorce, legal separation, or annulment, including an explanation of general legal concepts and the proper forms to use.

Caregivers and the Courts: A Primer on Juvenile Dependency Proceedings for California Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers (2000; en Español, 2001)

An educational booklet on dependency law and the dependency court process, to assist caregivers who wish to participate in juvenile court hearings.

Journal of the Center for Families, Children & the Courts (vol. 1, 1999; vol. 2, 2000; vol. 3, 2001; vol. 4, 2003; vol. 5, 2004)

An annual academic journal focusing on issues of national importance that affect children, families, and the courts.

Review of Statewide Uniform Child Support Guideline (2001)

A review of California's guideline for determining child support orders.

Making the Court System Work Better for Children: 25 Things Your Court Can Do (2001)

A booklet highlighting programs that actively improve a child's experience in our court system and describing successful child-oriented programs that can be replicated throughout the state.

Special Education Rights for Children and Families (2000; en Español, 2002)

A pamphlet for parents, foster parents, guardians, and caregivers describing the special education rights of children and families.

What's Happening in Court? An Activity Book for Children Who Are Going to Court in California (1999; en Español, 2002)

An activity book designed to educate children about the court process, introduce new vocabulary, and explain the roles of people who work in the judicial system.

Note: For a more extensive list of publications and videotapes by the Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children & the Courts, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/.